

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising an adherent antimicrobial coating comprising a nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix immobilized on a surface of the article of manufacture, and an antimicrobial metallic material ~~substantially non-leachably~~ bound to the matrix such that the antimicrobial coating does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding environment.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix comprises benzalkonium groups.

27. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 25 wherein the antimicrobial metallic material is selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal salt, a metal complex, a metal alloy, and mixtures thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27 wherein the metallic material comprises silver.

29. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 27 wherein the mixture comprises silver and copper.

30. (Previously Presented) the article of claim 27 wherein the metal salt is silver iodide.

31. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 31 wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer matrix is crosslinked with a crosslinking agent.

an antimicrobial metallic material substantially non-leachably bound to the matrix such that the antimicrobial coating does not release biocidal amounts of elutables into the surrounding environment.

55. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 54, wherein the nitrogen-containing polycationic polymer is functionalized with a thiol group, a hydroxy group, an amine group, a halogen, an epoxy group, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, and mixtures thereof.